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INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY IN THE SATELLITES

COLLECTIVE FARMS INCREASE IN GDR -- Göteborg, Göteborgs Handels - och Sjöfartstidning, 9 Jan 54

Collectivization of agriculture in the GDR is continuing at an undiminished rate. At the end of 1953, there were 4,800 producers cooperatives covering 770,000 hectares of ground, as compared with 1,200 producers cooperatives covering 99,000 hectares at the end of 1952.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT IN HUNGARY -- Paris, Chimie et Industrie, Nov 53

Agricultural experts of the Szeged experimental station have developed a process to improve alkali soils with powdered lignites, which were found to be especially effective on recently irrigated land. An excellent rice harvest was obtained on land where rice could not be grown before. In 1953, 2,400 hectares of alkali soils have been improved.

INCREASED RICE CULTIVATION IN HUNGARY -- Helsinki, Helsingin Sanomat, 17 Dec 53

Hungary received 103 different specimens of rice seeds in 1938 from the Turkmen SSR Agricultural Research Institute. Experimentation by the Hungarians proved that the "Dunghan Zhali" and "Arpa Zhali" quick-ripening varieties were best suited for the Hungarian climate.

The acreage of rice cultivated in Hungary has increased from only 28 hectares in 1939, to 5,415 hectares in 1947, and 25,000 hectares in 1953. The average yield is 2,900-3,000 kilograms of rice per hectare; some fields yield as much as 6,000-7,000 kilograms per hectare. Since a yield of 1,500 kilograms per hectare would cover all production costs, a great profit is realized.

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The three main varieties of rice cultivated in Hungary today are early-ripening, have strong stalks, and grow easily in soil which contains soda but is deficient in calcium. These varieties require 120-140 days to mature, a temperature of 12 degrees centigrade to germinate, and 1,200-1,400 hours of sunlight to ripen.

FOOD PRICES IN BULGARIA -- Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 22 Jan 54

London, 21 January (Nafen) -- According to reports reaching here, a deceptive abundance of goods has appeared in Bulgarian stores since the abolition of rationing. However, a comparison of prices and daily wages indicates that the broad masses are unable to buy these goods. For example, a worker must work 11 hours for one kilogram of olives, 200 hours for one kilogram of tea, 5 hours for 300 grams of chicken, and 4 hours for 200 grams of canned fish.

COLD-STORAGE PLANTS IN HUNGARY -- Paris, Chimie et Industrie, Nov 53

About 2 billion francs have been devoted to construction of cold-storage plants in Hungary since the beginning of 1953. The most important, at Debrecen, Szatmar, and Gyor, have begun operating. At present a plant is being finished at Kaposvar, in southwest Hungary, and another is to be constructed at Miskolc, the principal city of the northeast industrial region.

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